

Application No. 09/648,368

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-21 and 24-35 are active in this application. The claims have been amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of discussing this application with the Applicants' undersigned representative. Applicants further thank the Examiner for suggesting the claim amendments submitted to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Allowance of the application is requested.

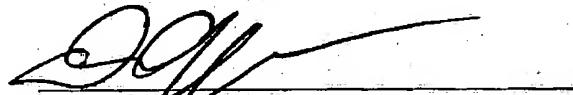
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)



Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518